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MATTER

T. C. JONES EDITOR

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION

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There is no better time for the State to lay her advantages before the rest of the country and to bid for immigration and capital than the present.

Florida Life is again on our table, after a short suspension. It is brimful of good reading, with a complete new dress and is very interesting. We wish it a long new life.

Oliver Wendell Holmes says the human race is divided into two classes. Those who go ahead and do something and those who sit down and inquire why it wasn't done the other way.

Governor Taylor of Tennessee, made a speech in Texas a few days ago, in which he said: "Texas is the biggest waffle on the griddle of North America. It is sweetened with the honey of happiness pouring from the bung-hole of prosperity, and buttered with pure Democracy."

We return thanks to Col. R. H. M. Davidson for a copy of Rates, Rules and Regulations governing the transportation of passengers and freight on the railroads in Florida, as promulgated by the Rail Commission. It is neatly gotten up and contains a lot of valuable information.

Living is had in Florida with so little exertion that this might be called the poor man's paradise. There is no better section of the state than Chipley and Washington county. If you are seeking a home come and visit us; we can assure you that you will be met with a hearty welcome will be pleased with the people and the place.

The free gold in the treasury increased during October nearly six millions of dollars, but the deficit in the revenue was nearly ten millions. The worst of it is, that the receipts were two millions less than those of last year, and this, too, in spite of an increase in the Internal Revenue of \$300,000. A contemporary well remarked some time ago that the new revenue law was intended to increase revenues, but not those of the government.

Another long Florida summer has come and gone; already the short Florida winter, with its clear crisp days and chilly nights, makes its breath felt in the air. Every season is beautiful in Florida, with the everlasting wealth of sunshine, the clear pure air, fragrant from the health-giving pines, the green trees and flowers the singing birds, so much that is lost in the North even so early as November. Who would rather live in the North, who has ever lived in Florida? Some few foolish people, but not many.

Senator Pasco has recently been interviewed on the Cuban question and gives his opinion in the following few words: Mr. McKinley is at present pursuing Mr. Cleveland's policy, and no decided change is likely to occur unless the situation in Cuba compels a change. The Senate resolution granting belligerent rights will come up in the house unless obstructed by the Reed rules. I think myself that the United States has ample cause to interfere with the Cuban struggle, and I am in favor of such action, but I do not think we want Cuba annexed. A people reared with views so different to ours may not readily assimilate with our people, and they do not ask for annexation.—Sentinel

There are many things that we poor mortals cannot understand in the enigma of life and living, and we become disheartened at times because of our ignorance. But the one thing that puzzles more than any one of the mysteries of our civilization is the great number of men who apparently do nothing, and yet are always dressed well and look sleek and fat. In every community there are numbers of such men. Their names are unknown at the banks and yet they do not strike you for a loan; but all the same they are apparently gentlemen of infinite leisure. Probably if the truth were known some self sacrificing sister, or over-indulgent mother, or perhaps a wife, is sharing her hard-earned pittance with these parasitic parvenues.—Ex.

SENATOR WOLCOTT EXPLAINS.

Washington, Nov. 10.—Senator Wolcott explained to the President today why the International Monetary Commission failed.

He said that when everything was going along nicely and it seemed as if the British Cabinet would go as far as had been promised, reopening the Indian mints and consenting to a conference, the press of Great Britain and the bankers of London criticised the Cabinet so severely that it was compelled to take a course contrary to what the commission had expected.

Mr. Wolcott expressed himself as not without hope of ultimate success.

THE SPIRIT OF THE SOUTH.

The South's gigantic timber and iron interests are at last being generally recognized by the rival states of the North. The South's iron ore deposits have been a revelation indeed to northerners who naturally looked upon Pennsylvania as the iron state of the Union. It is certain she is not entitled to that distinction now.

A Northern exchange recognizing this, and admiring the spirit of the South in developing their resources says:

The young men of the South were possessed of ability, courage and industry in the hour of their need. Today, the cities of the South show their vim, their courage and their perseverance. Rising from their desolated and destroyed fields, they have entered into the race for human enterprise and existence, with a spirit that does credit to the highest type of mankind. They have, like the inhabitants of the fire-stricken city of Chicago, wrought beauty out of desolation, wealth out of apparent ruin. The secret of their success was that inbred sense of honor and courage, together with that high development of manhood which came from former years of luxury and refinement, and which made itself manifest in the hours of trial and adversity, and which, like spark of genius, shines best when hardest pressed. Another reason for their success when compelled to grapple with life's problems, was the fertile fields of the South, capable of producing cotton, sugar cane, tobacco and corn; their vast mineral resources of coal and iron; their mountains of granite and stone; their mountains and valleys of fine timber.

When we reflect that the timber interest of America amounted in 1897 to over one billion of dollars some idea may be conceived of the immensity of the timber trade. The South is today contributing more largely than almost any other section of our country.—Pensacola News.

CURRENCY LEGISLATION.

The republican party pledged itself at its last national convention to do all it could to bring about international bimetalism. It has kept that pledge. The report of the commission which was sent to Europe to see what European countries were willing to do in behalf of bimetalism has not been made public, but it is well known what the substance of the report is. The commission accomplished nothing. Europe does not want bimetalism, because a double monetary standard is regarded by European financiers as impracticable.

It is assumed that the republican party will make no further effort in behalf of international bimetalism, and it is certain that it is against the free coinage of silver by this country alone. The question which now presents itself is this: Will the republican party undertake to reform the currency so that there will be little or no danger of money panics resulting from such conditions as brought about the panic of 1893?

On this question the party is divided. One part of it favors an attempt to reform the currency at once. The Secretary of the Treasury has already made public a plan for that purpose, and the monetary commission will it is expected, have a plan ready to report to congress soon after that body meets. The plan of the Secretary of the Treasury has been commented on quite favorably, and it may be made the basis of a currency reform bill. Another plan that has attracted a good deal of attention is that of John C. Bullitt of Philadelphia. There will be many currency reform plans before congress because there is no lack of men who think they have the financial ability to settle satisfactorily the currency question.

The other part of the republican party favors letting the currency alone, holding that the party will stand a much better chance of electing the next congress and

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the next President if it does not attempt to change existing currency conditions.

This difference among the republicans as to the policy that ought to be pursued in respect to the currency will result, in all probability, in nothing being done. But if nothing is done the republican party will be open to the charge of refusing to fulfill its promises. It promised to change the tariff and to put the currency on a safe basis. It has kept its promise in respect to the tariff. It remains to be seen whether it will keep its promise in respect to the currency.—Savannah News

THE POOLING BILL.

The Interstate Commerce commission has recommended several times that the act under which the commission was created be so amended as to allow railroads to enter into pooling agreements subject to the approval of the commission. A bill to carry out this recommendation was before the last congress, but was defeated.

At the first session of the present congress Senator Foraker introduced a similar bill and the information comes from Washington that the Interstate Commerce committee will report it favorably soon after congress assembles.

The bill makes it the duty of the roads to submit a proposed agreement to the commission and the latter is to approve that agreement, unless "it shall be of opinion that the operation of any such contract would, by reason of its provisions or for want of necessary restrictions and limitations, result in unreasonable rates or unjust discrimination."

The committee will recommend an amendment which makes it the duty of the commission to investigate all specific complaints and authorizes it, when it finds that rates charged "are in any respect excessive or unreasonable, or result in any unjust discrimination," to issue an order requiring those rates to be changed, "so as to make the same reasonable and just."

In case any railroad fails or refuses to obey such order the commission will be empowered to enter suit to enforce it.

The advocates of the proposed change in the law believe that all danger of abuses from pooling agreements will be prevented by the proposed amendment, as it gives the commission practically the power to fix and control rates. While the commission would not have the power to make rates, it could order a reduction of rates so that they would be "reasonable and just" and may reject all rates that are made by the railroads until they are so fixed that the commission is satisfied with them.

In the opinion of the commissioners the law would be made much more effective and its benefits to the public would be greatly enlarged by the passage of the pooling bill with the amendment proposed by the committee.—Atlanta Journal.

Are You Weak?

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CUPID OUTSIDE.

A peculiar, yet highly commendable order has been sent out by the General Post master at Washington which forbids the use of private letter boxes in any of Uncle Sam's offices, by minors. It has been properly decided that the practice, certainly having no business or legitimate social object must necessarily create and foster an immoral influence.

The government does not wish to be a party to the secret, and therefore imprudent correspondence of the callow youths and "novel" struck maidens of Young America, that can be carried on with the safety of a private letter box. Several cases of harmful flirtations have been reported as results of this liberty, which never should have been allowed in a single instance in any part of the country, much less to become a general official encouragement for the folly of foolish youth and silly girls. There is too much of this veiled courtship in evidence as it is; the government could ill afford to advance it.

It may be well—it is well for boys and girls of proper character to associate together, but the association should be in the open freedom of their parents' homes.

Far too many youngsters of school age are thoughtlessly allowed to parade public thoroughfares at night to make acquaintances which cannot result to the advantage of anyone. The private letter box has served as a means to continue such associations, causing need of youthful errors not easily remedied, and often destroying the future happiness of the semi-irresponsible participants. Therefore it would be very apropos for parents to combine their influence with the government's action in behalf of the morals of the rising generation.—Sentinel.

LEE IN CUBA.

Havana, Nov. 14.—General Fitzhugh Lee and Walter B. Parker, United States Consul at Sagua la Grande, arrived this afternoon on the Ward Line steamer Segura. They were welcomed by a large company of friends.

The insurgents dynamited a train on the line to Sancti Spiritus. Several cars were demolished, but only two persons were injured.

The insurgents attempted to enter the town of San Juan Yeras, Province of Santa Clara. They succeeded in reaching the outskirts, but according to the official account, the garrison repulsed them, killing eight, whose bodies were left in the streets. Several of the inhabitants were wounded.

Six car loads of bicycles have been received recently in New York for shipment to Europe. American wheels are said to sell better in Europe than the European wheels, and at prices which the foreign makers can hardly meet. A locomotive building company in Philadelphia has just booked orders for some thirty locomotives, to be shipped to South America, Europe and Asia. Orders for the engines were secured in competition with European builders. The joiners' union of Glasgow, Scotland, the other day declared a boycott against doors and other articles of American manufacture. It would not be surprising if other European trade unions should follow suit. It will be seen that American manufactures are gaining in favor in foreign countries, and the working people of Europe must protect themselves against the "pauper labor" of the United States, of course.—Sav. News.

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